

brings him to church. After all, "A Layman" seems to leave the question in the hands of architects; it is for them to say whether or not they shall be tolerated in our churches, or whether they shall not rather be turned out as intrusions and innovations. For he says, "Practical men will be unwilling to remove them entirely, until our architects have seriously considered whether they cannot be made ornamental as well as useful." It remains to be seen what the architectural verdict will be. That they can be introduced in a design not only as tolerable but actually as beautiful features, nobody would care to deny; but if we are to follow catholic antiquity and the spirit of her architecture and church arrangement, then indeed galleries, like pews, are inadmissible. I cannot but suspect, that in more than one case a gallery is built where, if Christian liberality had been more abundant, an aisle would have been thrown out or a new church erected.

A CHURCHMAN.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE Cowes commissioners have decided on commencing an efficient system of sewerage throughout the town, to be appropriately carried out, together with the introduction of the water-pipes along the streets. Engineers were to be called on last Monday to furnish plans. A grant of 25,000*l.* has been obtained, to defray the expense of the proposed barracks for 300 convicts, at Portland [where they are to labour on the government works, we presume].—The erection of public baths at Colchester has been begun. The building will be 112 feet in front, and the elevation of the Ionic order. They will be finished, it is thought, in about four months. Mr. Penrice, of Colchester, is the company's architect, and the building contract has been taken by tradesmen of the town.—A convenient county court house is to be provided, it is said, at Breatwood.—In scraping the walls of Great Waltham Church, the remains of various old paintings have been laid bare.—Measures have been taken, it seems, to repair and restore the chancel end of Rotherham Church. The churchyard though "chocking with graves," is still in use. The archdeacon of the diocese regrets the want of power, in either church or state (or law at least), to stop this disgusting outrage on decency, as well as on the sanitary condition of the people. The yard, he thinks, ought to be flagged over, and further burials there precluded altogether.—The new baths at Rotherham, erected on the plan of Mr. Flockton, architect, will be opened forthwith. The *Sheffield Times* presents an engraving of this spirited undertaking, which ought to serve as an example to certain of our stingy metropolitan parishes. The edifice is upwards of 70 feet by 60 feet in extent, besides the out works, consisting of engine house, chimney, &c.; and contains all sorts of baths for both sexes—hot, cold, and tepid, vapour, slipper, plunge, &c.—We regret to have to announce, the death of the well-known Forest of Dean improver of iron and steel, Mr. David Mushett, of Monmouth, on the 5th instant, in the 77th year of his age.—A stained-glass window has been put up in St. Martin's Church, Liverpool, at the cost of about 350*l.* It is said to contain between 3,000 and 4,000 pieces of glass, and have 120 figures in it.—A subscription, now amounting to 600*l.* has been opened, for repewing Mansfield Woodhouse Church.—The tenders of Messrs. Liller and Son, for altering Retford Town Hall, and making a better market, has been accepted—amount 495*l.*—The interior and exterior of Bradford parish church has undergone a thorough repairing and cleansing: a thorough restoration is said to be desirable.—The restoration of the battlement extending across the south side of the Lady's Chapel in York Minster, has been commenced.—A large public building, which will ultimately contain within its walls the subscription library, mechanics' institution, Bible depository, savings' bank, a large public hall, lecture-room, &c., has been opened at Darlington.—The renovation and improvement of the venerable cathedral of Glasgow progresses. The soil has now been removed from before the great western door, and that fine entrance is seen in all its beautiful proportions. Workmen are busily engaged in point-

ing Blackadder's aisle outside, and the windows, at present built up with stone, are all to be glazed;—the roof is also to be covered with asphalt, to keep out the weather. The buttresses at the east end of the building are likewise under repair. New steps have been put down at the south entrance to the main crypt, and the porch will be repaired with mosaic.—The new Wesleyan church in Donegal-square, Belfast, which cost 5,000*l.* is the erection, was to be opened on 20th instant.

ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS, TAKING OUT QUANTITIES.

Sir,—In your next publication, will you, for the information of builders in general, be pleased to answer the following question?—A is an architect appointed to superintend the erection of a public building, the quantities for which he himself takes out, and charges 1 per cent. to B, the builder, for the same. At the close of the job, B discovers there is great deficiencies in the quantities supplied him by A, who, on being spoken to, and asked to meet any competent surveyor that B may appoint to measure the same, refuses to do so, and even says, that he will not allow any person to measure a building over which he is the architect. What remedy has B in the matter, he having paid a large sum for the quantities?

Unless freed from the responsibility by a special clause in the contract (which is usually inserted in such cases), the architect, we are disposed to think, would be liable for the omissions. An architect, by taking out the quantities for contractors, places himself in a wrong position as respects his employer and the builder. The practice should be discontinued: we do not believe, however, that it is carried on to any extent.

SCHEDULE PRICES.

Sir,—In reference to the remarks of "An Architect," in your last number, touching the relative position towards each other of architect and builder, I, as a builder, wish that the system of schedule prices were fairly carried out, but unfortunately this is not the case. I will give you a practical illustration. I undertook a contract and furnished a detailed estimate, on which prices all the alterations were to be calculated and charged. As soon as the contract was entered into, the engineer (not architect) set about making sundry alterations in the plans and arrangements, so as to make quite a different thing of it. In calculating my brickwork, I put down an average price for the whole of the work, face-work and all other extra items being included in the price, which I considered a fair average as the drawings were originally made. The alterations made in the plans were such as to cause nearly double the quantity of face-work (and this was all done with the best dressed bricks and tuck pointed), and a corresponding deduction made in the common brickwork, so that the alteration made no more in amount though the prime cost of the whole was from fifteen to twenty per cent. more than it would have been under the original contract drawings.

Again, there was in the schedule of prices an item of a few shillings only of "casements and frames." This, by an oversight in pricing out the quantities, was put down at a very low rate, evidently a mistake; well, our saving engineer, in making the alterations in the plans, took out a great portion of the sashes and frames, and put in casements and frames, being so great a saving. Several other similar alterations were made, but invariably to the evidently studied disadvantage of the contractor.

Whilst architects or engineers will thus act, they cannot expect contractors to place that implicit confidence in them which both ought to feel in each other.—I am, Sir, &c.

A BUILDER.

COLLEGE OF CHEMISTRY.—At the evening meeting on Wednesday last, Mr. Pusey, M.P. in the chair, Mr. Noad lectured to the satisfaction of a considerable audience, on the manufacture, properties, and uses of sulphuric acid. A pretty daguerreotype from a rubbing of a "brass" was shown.

THE INTENDED MUSIC HALL, IN LONG ACRE.

MR. HULLAN has commenced a new Music Hall, from designs by Mr. W. Westmacott, Architect. The plot of ground on which it is to be erected, consists of a parallelogram 149 feet in length, and 61 in width, the north side abutting on Wilson-street (leading from Endell-street to Drury-lane), and the east side on Charles-street, this plot being connected (at the south-west corner), with Long-acre, by another 44 feet in length and 22 feet in width.

There will be three entrances, from three different sides of the building; one, the principal, from Long-acre, another from Charles-street, and another from Wilson-street.

The building will have three principal stories, viz., basement, ground-floor, and first-floor; and between these latter (over the corridor), an intervening story, or mezzanine floor.

The ground-floor will consist of a lecture-room, 51 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 26 feet high, calculated to afford accommodation to 500 persons; and of three class-rooms, one 40 feet by 36 feet, another 31 feet by 19 feet, and a third, 26 feet by 19.

The first-floor will contain the concert-hall, which will be 120 feet long, 55 feet wide, and 40 feet high; the length being rather more than double the width, and the height a third of the length. On the north and south sides, and at the west end of the hall, will be erected galleries, the former 7 feet, the latter 11 feet in depth. The ceiling, or inner roof, will be flat in the centre, and sloped at the sides; and divided into compartments or panels, framed in wood. This hall will afford accommodation for 3,000 persons.

Between the inner and outer roofs of the hall will be formed a room 120 feet long, 17 feet wide, and 9 feet high, lighted by dormers. A portion of this room will be occupied by a ventilating apparatus, and the remainder will be fitted up as a library of music and musical literature.

The elevation towards Long-acre (nearly opposite the end of Bow-street), will be of Elizabethan architecture, and chiefly worked in brick. A lithograph of the design has been circulated, but it is so rudely executed, that it might seem unjust in the architect to form an opinion from it.

Correspondence.

PUBLIC BATHS.

Sir,—In an age when companies and societies are formed for carrying out almost every imaginable object, and when the sanitary question is the leading topic of the day, and when public writers are continually comparing our great metropolis with the metropolis of the ancient world, and mourning over its deficiency in this respect, is it not surprising that London is so ill-supplied with those great desiderata, public baths? and more particularly with swimming baths?

The few establishments of this kind at present in existence, I consider nothing better than mere apologies for what are required, and I am fully persuaded that it would amply pay a joint-stock company to form baths in the heart of the metropolis, on a large and grand scale, and fully commensurate with the wants of the million. With this view I write to you, in the hopes of inducing some enterprising capitalists to supply this great want.

I am, Sir, &c.

A DENIZEN OF THE METROPOLIS.

June 10th, 1847.

STRAIGHTENING CROOKED RAILS.

Sir,—Can you afford a subscriber some information relative to a machine for straightening crooked rails? Contractors find it very expensive in preparing rails for permanent use after they have been bent in the construction of the works. If not, it may be in the power of some of your contributors to point out a "cheap and effective" machine for this purpose.—I am, Sir, &c.

J. S.

COMPETITION.—Gas engineers and contractors are called upon for plans and specifications, with tenders, for the erection of gas-works at Littlehampton.